TRUTH HIDDEN, GARRISON SAYS

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DA Blasts U.S. Handling of JFK Death Probe

(The Associated Press)

Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison continued an attack Thursday on the federal government's handling of the probe into President John F. Kennedy's assassination, charging it had encouraged witnesses to conceal the truth.

He claimed in a statement to the news media that his own investigation had caught the "lie machine . . . not only by a revealing photograph but by a letter taken from its own records."

Garrison released a copy of a letter between two Warren Commission attorneys, Wesley J. Liebeler and Norman Redlich, written on July 22, 1964, nine months after Kennedy was shot to death in Dallas.

The district attorney's statement underlined a portion concerning Deputy Sheriff Eddie Raymond Walthers. Redlich wrote Liebeler, who was to question Walthers, suggesting that he ask him "exactly what he saw on the day of the assassination with reference to the bullet which he claims splattered on the edge of the curb on Main street."

"One time Walthers was quoted as having found a bullet, but he seems to have backed away from this position," the letter said.

Garrison has photographs in which two men in business suits and a policeman in uniform are standing on the grass at the assassination site. He said one shows a man picking up a bullet.

"Of course," Garrison's statement said Thursday, "Deputy Walthers denies that the bullet is a bullet. If he did not, he would not be deputy sheriff any longer."

Garrison said Walthers had been "reduced to the embarrassment of having to pretend that the federal official in the photographs has, in the first photograph, reached down for a piece of the President's head — and, in the second photograph, is holding a piece of the President's head firmly clutched in his hand."

"What is important is that Deputy Sheriff Walthers initially said that he did find a bullet," Garrison's statement added. "But this was before Lyndon Johnson's administration indicated the official line that it was going to be pretended that there was only one assassin . . ."

The Warren Commission concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald was the lone assassin.

"Many witnesses who have cooperated in the big lie by refusing to tell what they know about the truth have been given jobs in defense plants," Garrison claimed. "Our office has located at least one participant in the assassination of President Kennedy who now works at a military base for the United States government."

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